To all concerned –Governor Malloy, Excellencies, Distinguished Representatives, fellow Connecticut Residents and Partners in the advancement of women's rights:

I write to you today and urge you to maintain the individual identity and integrity of the Connecticut General Assembly's Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) and note my strong opposition to the proposed merger of the PCSW with the other legislative commissions within the State of Connecticut. Simply stated, this is a policy that is penny wise and pound foolish.

PCSW has been a leader in advancing women's rights and empowerment and we, as a community, owe this to the leadership and stewardship of the strong-willed and determined women and men, who joined forces to support women's health, education and overall human rights by promoting women in policies and programs throughout our state. This investment in women's lives and futures has allowed our great state to lead and has allowed young women within this state to go out into the world and lead. We must protect this investment and promote this legacy for the next generation.

I speak to you as someone who was blessed to have had the opportunity to be taught by the PCSW staff during the over two years I interned and worked with PCSW as an undergraduate at the University of Connecticut. It was an honor and it is the bedrock upon which my professional life has been built.

Currently, I work at the United Nations and carry the lessons and professionalism, gained from my time with the PCSW, in my daily life as I work to promote the wellbeing of women at the global level.

We are fortunate to enjoy a legacy that few others can claim, and that legacy must be sustained. I urge you, Governor Malloy and other Distinguished Representatives, to protect our investment, protect our future and maintain PCSW as the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women.

Please kindly contact me if there is anything more that I can do to offer my support. I would be with you in person, if I were not traveling for work.

May God bless you and our great State

Sincerely,

Jinny M. Klimas

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House District 77-79
Senate District 31